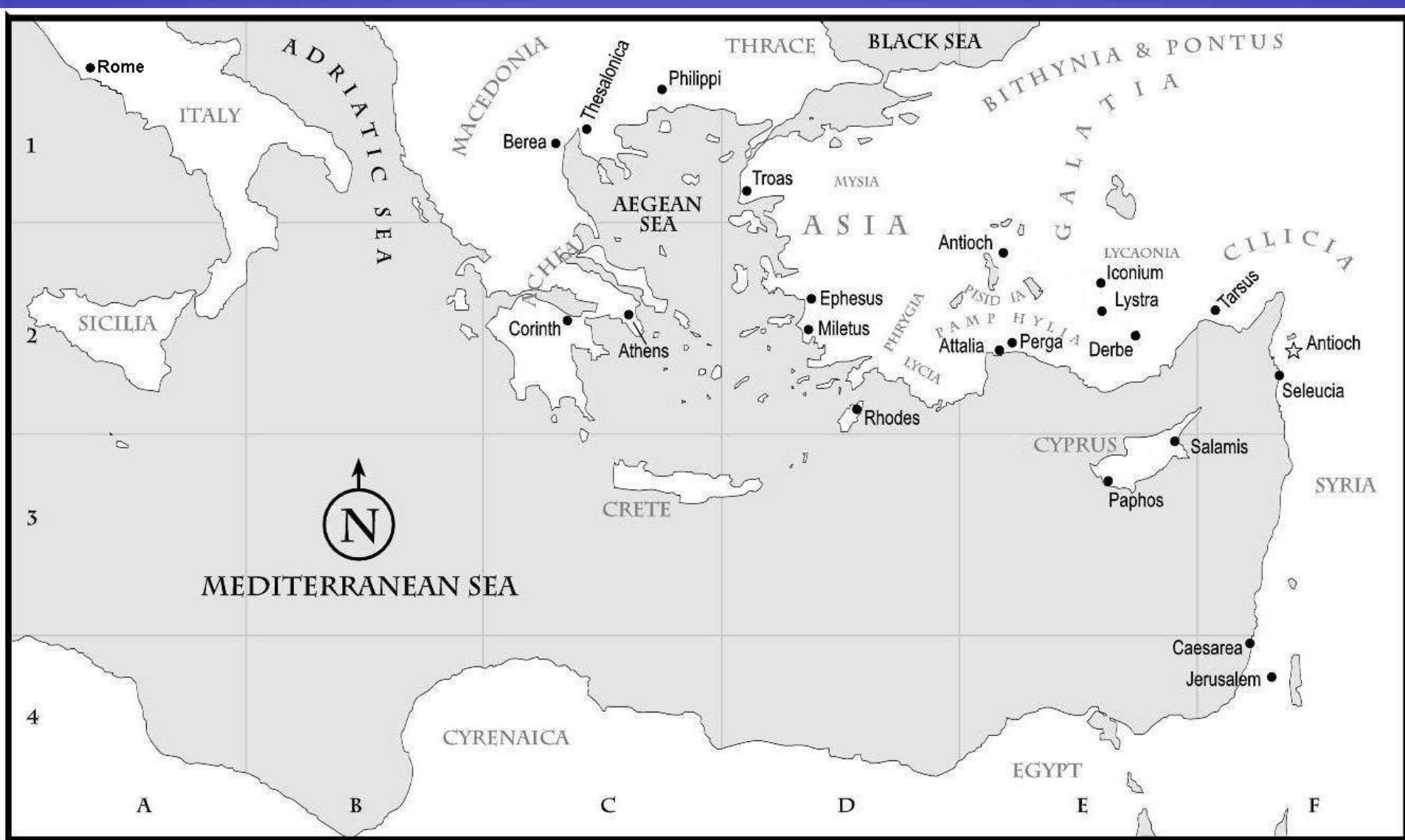


# Galatians

A letter from Paul

# Audience

- This letter was written to the “church” in Galatia
  - This was not intended for a single church.
  - It was to be distributed to a number of different groups in the area.



# Audience

- The churches were made up of mostly Gentile believers.
  - They probably believed in mythical gods like the Greeks and Romans.
  - They were being attacked by unbelieving Jews.
  - They were being influenced by *Judaizers*.
    - They believed in two prerequisites before becoming a Christian:
      - Embrace Judaism
      - Be circumcised

# Purpose

- Paul drew two contrasts for the Galatians:
  - A contrast between the law and works (good deeds) and grace and faith.
  - A contrast between living in the flesh and walking in the Spirit.
- This letter is like a Christian Declaration of Independence that shows Jesus as the deliverer from bondage to the law and works.

# Theme

- We receive salvation by grace through faith. (He argues against the heresy that there is more to being a Christian than just believing.)
- Theme verse  
Galatians 3:11 (NLT)—So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

# Characteristics

- A false gospel
- Grace and faith

# People

- Paul

He writes a lot about himself:

- His calling by God
- His conversion and its results

- Peter

- Paul had to confront Peter's hypocrisy.

# Teachings

- Faith not law—living by faith is better than living by the law.
- Freedom in Christ—true freedom is not to sin, but to love and serve one another.
- Life in the Spirit—those serving God should exhibit the fruit of the Spirit.